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Central Intelligence Agency

Washington, D.C. 20505

18 SEP 1984

Mr. Harold C. King
Commissioner
Virginia Department of Highways
and Transportation
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Mr. King:

This letter is in response to your letter of 5 September 1984.

I would like to review our last discussion regarding improvements to the I-495 and George Washington Memorial Parkway eastbound interchange as a way of qualifying the conditions under which we are prepared to proceed with the proposed improvements. As we pointed out, studies done for our CIA project did not disclose any capacity problems on the eastbound Parkway ramp because the study demonstrated that backups on I-495 caused by the lane drop at Cabin John Bridge effectively throttle traffic attempting access to the eastbound Parkway.

Since our interest lies in improving access to the Parkway for our employees, we asked if there would be a way to add laneage that would permit vehicles bound for the Parkway to bypass the major portion of the Cabin John backup. The suggestion from your staff was to undertake the proposed widening and lengthening of the eastbound Parkway ramp.

Implicit in these discussions was the mutual understanding that we were discussing an investment of some limited value. The widening of I-495 to four lanes across Cabin John Bridge to Maryland Route 190 will substantially reduce the current I-495 congestion. The uncertainty remains as to when this congestion will ease. If we are able to significantly improve access to the eastbound Parkway for a period of several years or more, then we plan to pursue funding for the project.

On the assumption that the project has merit, it is requested that an agreement for this project be drafted. To assist us in defending this

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expenditure of Federal funds, it is requested that the agreement contain provisions for a preliminary traffic study to define the level of improvement obtained and an estimate of the beneficial life of the proposed improvement. Our decision to proceed with design and construction will be based on the results of this study.

Sincerely,

Harry E. Fitzwater

Harry E. Fitzwater
Deputy Director
for
Administration

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